

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3329  
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014  
M.PHIL. AND PH.D. DEGREES  
Venugopal Shri P.

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) tightens rules in an attempt to standardize the process of awarding M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees and to bring about a qualitative improvement in the research output;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the UGC has devised a way to crack down on universities that award degrees in a haphazard manner; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission(UGC) has notified UGC(Minimum standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 on 11th July, 2009 for standardizing the process of awarding of M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. These Regulations apply to every University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, Provincial Act or a State Act, every institution including constituent or an affiliated College recognized by the Commission, in consultation with the University concerned under clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956, and every Institution deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the said Act.

These Regulations prescribe criteria relating to eligibility, procedure for admission, allocation of supervisor, course work, evaluation and assessment methods for award of M.Phil./ Ph.D. and depository with the UGC for hosting the successful thesis. As per these Regulations, all Universities, Deemed-to-be Universities and Colleges/Institutions of National importance shall be eligible for conducting M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. It is further specified in the Regulations that no University, Deemed-to-be University and College/Institution of National importance shall conduct M.Phil and Ph.D programmes through distance education mode. Candidates who are awarded Ph.D. in compliance with these Regulations only are eligible for exemption from National Eligibility Test(NET) for appointment as Assistant Professors.

(c) & (d): As per sub-section 1 of Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, the right of conferring of granting degrees shall be exercised only by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act or an institution deemed to be a University under section 3 or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees. However, the UGC sends Expert Committees to verify the standards, in general, in Private and Deemed to be Universities as per the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities), Regulations, 2003 and the UGC(Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010, respectively. Moreover, the UGC has written to the Vice Chancellors of all Universities to assess the conformity to UGC(Minimum standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil./ Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 and to elicit information to understand their pursuit of research vis-à-vis the impact in generating new knowledge and applications of its outcomes.